

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber, comprising:

moving a cutting blade by applying a drive force provided by a motor so as to transit a center portion of the optical fiber, said drive force being transmitted between a drive force transmission device and said motor through one of a plurality of speed reducing gears configured to reduce a rotational speed of said motor, said one of said plurality of speed reducing gears meshing gear teeth provided on a part of an outer periphery thereof with gear teeth provided on an outer periphery of another one of said plurality of speed reducing gears;

reducing an amount of the drive force applied to said cutting blade after said cutting blade transits the center portion of said optical fiber by [[a]] said drive force transmission device to move said cutting blade at a constant speed while cutting the optical fiber; and

automatically stopping transmission of said drive force to said cutting blade when cutting of the optical fiber is done by having a part of said outer periphery of said one of said plurality of speed reducing gears having no gear teeth facing said gear teeth provided on said outer periphery of said another one of said plurality of speed reducing gears.

Claims 18-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim 17, wherein the moving step further comprises moving said cutting blade by applying

said drive force to a cutting blade holder, said cutting blade holder configured to hold said cutting blade and to receive said drive force from ~~a drive~~ said plurality of speed reduction device reducing gears through said drive force transmission device to move said cutting blade.

Claims 22-23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for cutting an optical fiber according to Claim ~~[[23]]~~ 21, wherein the applying step further comprises applying said drive force to said cutting blade holder through said drive force transmission device including a cam configured to rotate along with a rotation of said plurality of speed reducing gears, and a cam follower configured to move in a rectilinear direction along with a rotation of said cam.

Claim 25 (canceled)